

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

May 21, 2007

CALL TO PODIUM:

Fred Felton
Assistant City Manager

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

Fred Felton
Assistant City Manager

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

	Presentation
	Proclamation/Certificate
	Appointment (Reappointments)
	Public Hearing
	Historic District
	Consent Item
	Ordinance
	Resolution
	Policy Discussion
	Work Session Discussion Item
X	Other: From Staff

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE:

Guidance on a Memorandum Dated May 16, 2007 From the Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Elections

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:

Please see attached memorandum with attachments.

DESIRED OUTCOME:

Hear presentation and provide guidance.

MEMORANDUM TO: Mayor and City Council

VIA: David B. Humpton, City Manager

FROM: Joan More, Chairman
Board of Supervisors of Elections

DATE: May 16, 2007

SUBJECT: Voting Equipment for November 6, 2007 Election

During the March 12, 2007 work session on election issues, the Mayor and City Council concurred with the Board of Supervisors of Elections' (The Board) recommendation that the City not use the Diebold Electronic Voting System for the November 6, 2007 City election. As we indicated at the work session, staff has held a series of meetings with other potential voting equipment vendors.

On Wednesday, May 2, 2007, the Gaithersburg Board of Supervisors of Elections, the Rockville Board of Elections, staff from Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Takoma Park, and Montgomery County Board of Elections staff attended a demonstration that included an in-depth discussion about the AccuVote Optical Scan (OS) System and the AutoMark System that are available from Diebold as an alternative to the Electronic Voting System.

The Board was very impressed with both systems, and are confident that this equipment is appropriate for the upcoming 2007 City election. Accordingly, we are unanimously recommending that the Mayor and City Council approve the use of this equipment for the November 6, 2007 election. For your review, I have attached information sheets on the AccuVote OS System and the AutoMark System.

The AccuVote OS System will permit both relatively quick, transparent, and completely accurate election results while providing for a paper back up if results are disputed. The AccuVote OS System scans in the paper ballot which is tabulated on the scanner via a memory card. The AutoMark System provides an automated method of marking ballots for certain disabled voters.

Upon completion of voting on a paper ballot, the voter then places his ballot into a ballot sleeve and walks over to the AccuVote OS System. The voter then places the ballot, while still in the sleeve, into the AccuVote OS System which automatically scans the ballot and then feeds the paper ballot into the attached ballot box.

The Board is proposing to have three separate counts of the votes before certifying the election:

1. When the polls close, the Chief Judge at each poll will print a copy of the results from each AccuVote OS System, and these will be added manually to produce initial unofficial results.
2. Shortly after the close of the polls, the Chief Judge at each poll will remove the memory card from each AccuVote OS System. The Board will consolidate the memory cards, and run them through a collector unit located at City Hall to verify the count obtained from item 1 above. After unofficial results have been obtained, they will be announced at City Hall and posted accordingly.
3. The day after the election, the Board will physically rerun each ballot through a single AccuVote OS System to verify the count prior to certifying the election.
4. The certified election results will be presented to the Mayor and Council at the **Wednesday**, November 7, 2007 meeting.

Assuming the Mayor and City Council approve the new equipment, it is our intention to hold a public demonstration of the equipment prior to the election so voters will have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the new equipment if they so desire. In addition, staff will revise our elections manual to integrate the procedures for using the new election equipment.

Assistant City Manager Fred Felton will be seeking guidance on this issue during the May 21, 2007 Mayor and City Council meeting. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

ff/sp

Attachments

cc: David B. Humpton, City Manager
Fred Felton, Assistant City Manager
Election File

Introduction to the AutoMARK VAT

The AutoMARK™ Voter Assist Terminal (VAT) is used to mark the ballot selections of voters who are visually impaired, have a disability, or who are more comfortable using an alternative language.

Ballot choices and instructions are displayed in large text print on the touch screen monitor, as well as read by the audio system in the language choice selected by the voter. Voters enter their selections by touching buttons on the screen, pressing keys on the keypad, or using an ADA device.

The AutoMARK VAT marks your ballot with your selections and returns them to you. You can then submit your marked ballot in the normal manner for tabulation. This guide contains all the information needed to use the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal (VAT).

1.1 Features of the AutoMARK VAT

A voter can use the Automark to mark a ballot by using:

- .. The touch screen
- .. The Braille keypad
- .. An ADA device (such as puff-sip or foot pedal)



The AutoMARK VAT has the capability to display your ballot in alternate languages. Language choices are determined by your jurisdiction. If you are not able to view the language selection screen, your jurisdiction has chosen to provide English as the only language. The audio matches the language selected.

The AutoMARK VAT has several privacy features. Audio volume can be increased or decreased as desired, and the screen can be turned on and off for privacy. If you want to use the audio system to listen to ballot choices and instructions, you will use the audio keys on the keypad (shown on the following page) to control audio sound. Headphones with disposable earpieces may be provided by your election officials.

The AutoMARK VAT also has a ZOOM MODE feature which enlarges the text on the screen, and a High Contrast mode which gives contrast to the screen resolution, for those who are visually impaired.

The proven standard for speed, accuracy and simplicity in the election process

Overview

AccuVote-OS™ is a precinct and central accumulation optical scan voting system that brings a new level of accuracy and simplicity to conducting elections.

The system uses robust, integrated system components to streamline and simplify the entire election process:

- The AccuVote-OS Tabulator accurately processes ballots at precincts on election day and transmits its results to a host computer at Election Central.
- The GEMS Application Software: This proprietary multi-user/multi-functional Microsoft-based software performs all election functions seamlessly for both optical scan and touch screen applications. It concurrently and automatically generates:
 - All appropriate ballot styles for each precinct
 - Postscript ballot files for postal ballots that eliminate manual typesetting and proofing
 - Vote tally files that receive totals needed to produce and distribute accumulated election results

Why precinct workers prefer AccuVote-OS

Proven performance: The reliable AccuVote-OS provides accurate results for over 900 election jurisdictions throughout North America.

Compact, modular design: The durable AccuVote-OS tabulator measures just 14" x 16" x 3" and weighs only 13.7 pounds.

Easily transported to and from the polling place.

Minimal training and no computer expertise required: Precinct workers can set up and monitor elections with ease and confidence with minimal training.

Ballots are processed in the polling place, not transported to a central location. Only the voter touches the ballot between the time it is cast and the time it is counted.

Provides absolute precinct management control from ballot preparation to verifying results, and helps provide a secure election environment with passwords, security levels and physical locks.

Why election officials prefer AccuVote-OS

Polling place ballot processing means voters confidentially insert their ballots directly into the AccuVote-OS for tabulation.



AccuVote-OS™ Optical Scan System

Uses paper ballots to control permanent physical records of voter choices and accommodates traditional recounting procedures.

Provides absolute management control from ballot preparation to verifying results, and helps provide a secure election environment with passwords, security levels and physical locks.

Provides overvote protection: AccuVote-OS can be programmed to automatically return an overvoted ballot to the voter. Clear verbiage indicates the reason the ballot was returned and the ballot location of the overvote.

Postscript electronic ballot generator produces an industry-standard postscript file for ballot production. This eliminates time-consuming, costly typesetting and significantly reduces the task of proofreading and making corrections.

Ballot size, flexibility: Ballot layout is free-form and flexible, and can be formatted in one, two, three or four columns, front and back. The standard 8.5" width also makes printing less complicated. Return absentee ballots fit in a standard #10 envelope, thus reducing printing and mailing costs.

TeleResults: Provides modem transmission of precinct results directly from the polling place to the host computer for jurisdiction-wide results, using standard landlines or cellular telephones. TeleResults is the industry standard.

"Technology Transfer" ensures backward compatibility and eliminates built-in obsolescence.

Ease of storage and maintenance: Each tabulator requires only .39 cubic-feet of storage space. Twenty-four units can be stacked on shelving 4-feet wide and 1.5-feet deep.

Why voters prefer AccuVote-OS

Straightforward, easy-to-understand name-on-the-ballot concept.

Voters can review their final decisions on paper before casting their vote by inserting the ballot into the AccuVote-OS tabulator.

Visible light reader technology permits voters to shade in the oval next to the candidate of

choice with any standard pen or pencil. This is especially advantageous in an uncontrolled absentee-by-mail voting environment.

AccuVote-OS Special Features

Simple, straight-through read path.

Provides a clear, distinct and complete audit trail to confirm election results, and performs only those functions specified by election officials.

Internal battery backup acts as an uninterruptible power supply and permits the voting process to continue during a power failure.

Portable for poll workers to accomplish TeleResults.



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